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LETTER DATED 18 NOVEMBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to present to you herewith the 12 November 1993 joint declaration on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina by the Presidential Trustees of my President and of the President of the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, His Excellency Mr. Mate Granic, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Croatia and His Excellency Mr. Haris Silajdzic, Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

His Excellency Mr. Hikmet Cetin, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey, was witness to the joint declaration, which he signed along with the Presidential Trustees.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Sarajevo joint declaration

During their meeting in Sarajevo on 12 November 1993, the Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Haris Silajdzic, and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, Mr. Mate Granic, in their capacity as Presidential Trustees following the Geneva Declaration of 14 September 1993, in the presence and with active participation of H.E. Mr. Hikmet Cetin, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, have extensively discussed the present political and military situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

During the talks, special emphasis was put on the recent flare-up of fighting between the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina and HVO forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the central Bosnia area in particular, and the urgent necessity to end all hostilities and military activities.

The three sides have also extensively discussed the necessity to revive the peace process in order to bring about an immediate, comprehensive and durable solution to the crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region, in particular in the light of the tragic deterioration of humanitarian conditions.

They have agreed that the basic principles of the Geneva peace agreement joint declaration signed by Presidents Franjo Tudjman and Alija Izetbegovic, as well as their statement from Vienna, represent a basis for a comprehensive solution to the relations between the two parties aimed at reaching final agreement on the crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this context particular attention was paid to the latest peace initiatives.

In this respect they have agreed that every political effort must be exerted on the bilateral and multilateral levels to end further deterioration of relations between the Bosnian Croats and Bosniacs in order to create a positive framework for the restoration of the peace process.

In order to implement these principles, Mr. Haris Silajdzic and Mr. Mate Granic, in their capacity as Presidential Trustees, and with the active participation of Mr. Hikmet Cetin, have agreed on the following:

1. To prepare and organize an urgent meeting of the highest political and military leadership of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina and HVO, not later than within five to seven days, in order to reach a comprehensive agreement on all military issues relating to the establishment of the cease-fire and final cessation of all hostilities and military activities. It was agreed that, during the preparations for this meeting, both sides would strictly refrain from all military activities.

2. The immediate assurances and guarantees for free and unhindered passage of humanitarian aid convoys to all parties and areas shall be given by the respective highest authorities. For the purposes of the realization of the above-mentioned, the parties have agreed on the following:

(a) To appeal jointly to the United Nations Security Council, the European Community and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to provide for the free passage of humanitarian convoys by all means, including the use of force;

(b) To open immediately a humanitarian aid corridor on the route Ploće-Metković-Ćapijina-Mostar-Jablanica-Tarćin-Kiseljak-Visoko;

(c) To use the Kamenska-Tomislavgrad-Gornji Vakuf-Novi Travnik-Travnik-Zenica corridor until the above-mentioned corridor is available;

(d) To organize immediately two convoys for the Central Bosnia area, i.e., one for Nova Bila and the other for Maglaj;

(e) To establish a Joint Commission, with the mandate to coordinate all activities relating to humanitarian convoys and to cooperate with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other humanitarian agencies;

(f) To coordinate their activities in order to provide for the repair of energy supply systems.

3. To continue to revive the activities of previously established joint working groups for the release of all detainees, in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other international agencies.

4. All other remaining controversial political, military, territorial and other issues between the Bosnian Croats and the Bosniacs shall be resolved only through political means and without the use of force and a special mechanism for the coordination of all activities regarding the protection of rights and interests of the two peoples shall be established with the good offices of Turkey and other countries.

5. The sides shall continue their working dialogue on ministerial and other levels on all open questions with a view to bringing about a solution to Croat-Bosniac relations and preparations for the reactivation of the peace process.

Mr. Haris Silajdzic and Mr. Mate Granic have expressed jointly their great appreciation and gratitude to the Republic of Turkey and to Minister Hikmet Cetin personally for the most valuable and continuous political

assistance and humanitarian support to Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina in search of a lasting solution to the crisis in the region.

Sarajevo, 12 November 1993

(Signed) H.E. Haris SILAJDZIC
Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina

(Signed) H.E. Mate GRANIC
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia

Witnessed by:

(Signed) H.E. Hikmet CETIN
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey